



**MECKLENBURG COUNTY**  
**A Meeting of the Greenway Advisory and the Central Park Region Advisory**  
**Councils**

**MINUTES**

May 12, 2014

Revolution Sports & Learning Academy  
Charlotte, NC

**GREENWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ed Barnhart, Chair  
Dick Winters  
Bob Carter  
Brian Malec  
Gordon Clark  
Roy Alexander

**GREENWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mark Loflin  
Aubin Guinness  
Neil Burke  
Doug Burnett

**CENTRAL PARK REGION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER PRESENT:**

Michael Campbell, Central Park Region General Manager

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jim Garges, Department Director  
Lee Jones, Capital Planning Division Director  
Gwen Cook, Planner  
Kevin Brickman, Planner  
Jeff Robinson, Park Operation Division Director  
James Alsop, Enterprise Services & Adult Athletic Services Director  
Greg Clemmer – Park Superintendant  
Sandy Godwin, Senior IT Business Analyst

Jay Higginbotham, Senior Project Manager, Asset and Facilities Management

**CONSULTANT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Whit Alexander, Vice President - Lose & Associates, Inc.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

1. Proclamations and Awards – none
2. Presentations – **Community Information Session for the Irwin Creek Greenway** – a 1.5 mile section of greenway extension from the existing greenway at Remount Road to West Blvd. and the Barringer Academy Connector.

Ed Barnhart opened the meeting by introducing Park & Rec staff, the Greenway Advisory Council and Central Park Region Advisory Council members present and the role they will play in the project.

Gwen Cook presented an overview of what greenways are, how they are used and the existing/proposed greenway miles planned for the county.

Whit Alexander with Lose & Associates, Inc. conducted a PowerPoint presentation describing the design process, ADA accessibility, project schedule and site analysis of the project, a preliminary trail alignment with suggested building materials such as pavements, benches, shelters, etc.

Jay Higginbotham discussed the construction process and a tentative timeline for construction duration.

The floor was opened up for comments from the 10 citizens who attended the information session.

The following is a summary of what was discussed during the session:

- **How will the greenway project provide access to Clanton Community Park?**
  - The project will extend the existing greenway in Clanton Community Park, go under Remount Road and terminate at West Blvd. The Barringer Academy Connector will provide access for students of the school from the existing Irwin Creek Greenway to Barringer Academy. No improvements to the existing greenway in Clanton Community Park are proposed.
- **Will the greenway project contribute to increased flooding in the Abbott Neighborhood Park area off Spruce Street?**
  - The proposed greenway trail will not cause any adverse flooding conditions from what currently occurs in this area. The trail will be constructed within the floodplain, parallel to Irwin Creek. No fill material can be placed within the floodplain that would cause a rise in the current flood elevation per Charlotte Mecklenburg Stormwater Regulations. Any current flooding problems need to be addressed by Charlotte Mecklenburg Stormwater Services – Flood Mitigation Department.
- **What type of park amenities would be in the “Mini Park”?**

- Amenities would be limited to passive recreation such as benches, a small shelter, native tree planting, etc. No parking will be provided and bollards will be installed to deter cars from accessing the greenway and mini park.
- **Will coal ash be used as trail base material?**
  - No, potentially recycled concrete but no fly ash or coal ash.
- **What is the alignment of the Irwin Creek Greenway north of West Blvd?**
  - This section of trail has not been designed and an actual alignment has not been established. We understand this section will have challenges due to existing site constraints.
- **What is planned for the vacant property along West Blvd. and Beechnut Drive?**
  - This property is owned by several entities: Mecklenburg County, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and a private developer. There are no immediate plans for any improvements to these parcels at this time.
- **Will the greenway trail be lighted?**
  - No, we typically do not light our greenways.
- **Was a neighborhood access trail considered from the Barringer Connector to the Cowles Road right of way?**
  - No, we did not consider this connection at this time. It could be a long, costly trail to build and maintain with the Irwin Creek tributary crossing required. MCPR could look at this neighborhood connection in the future.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

3. Minutes from the April 21, 2014 GAC Meeting/Little Sugar Creek Greenway Information Session

### **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

4. Roy informed the GAC of a potential new member, Tom Watson from Northern Mecklenburg County. Tom is to contact Patsy Houston at MCPR for a Membership Application Packet.
5. The champions from the GAC presented brief updates of their respective greenway project areas.
6. It was suggested that a tour of the newly completed Steele Creek Dirtway be a destination of the GAC Tour in October.
7. Roy commented on the recently approved 30' easement for the Briar Creek Greenway through the Catawba Lands Conservancy at Meadowbrook Lane. He commended the design and environmental sensitivity of the trail to the existing flora and fauna within the conservation area.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

8. Kevin presented the schedule for the upcoming information Sessions for parks and greenway projects from June through August, 2014. The June and August GAC meetings will be Information Sessions. There will not be a GAC meeting in July.
9. Kevin discussed highlights from the FY14 Active Greenway Project Status Report and a

map/listing of the FY15-FY18 Projects. Dick inquired about the McAlpine Creek Greenway from Sardis Road to Providence Road. This is a FY17 project.

10. Gwen mentioned the Grand Opening for Torrence Creek Greenway should be sometime in late summer/early fall. The bike bells that have been ordered should be in by then to distribute.
11. Lee discussed the plans for Bryant Park and the Stewart Creek Greenway. 'Invest Collegiate' wants to build a charter school near the park site where the former Charlotte School of Law building is and look at constructing a portion of Stewart Creek Greenway for the students to access to the school and the park.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Monday, June 9, 2014 at 6:00 PM** – Campbell Creek Greenway – Information Session #2 -Hornets' Nest Girl Scout Council Offices – 7007 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC
- **July 2014** – No Meeting
- **Monday, August 11, 2014 at 6:00 PM** – Long Creek Greenway – Information Session #2 – Hornets' Nest Park Picnic Barn, 6301 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, NC

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at approximately 7:35 pm.